Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05 /108 W

R 080746Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8457

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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CONFIDENTIAL VALLETTA 02893

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, XG, MT

SUBJECT: EUROPEANS TO MEET IN ROME SEPTEMBER 19 TO DIS-

- CUSS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR MALTA

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAUTHAL INFORMED CHARGE DURING SEPTEMBER 7 CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD TALKED BY TELEPHONE WITH MFA OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR MALTESE AFFAIRS HEIBACH THE PREVIOUS DAY. HEIBACH TOLD HIM THAT THE GERMANS, FRENCH AND ITALIANS PLAN TO MEET IN ROME ON SEPTEMBER 19 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON WHETHER THEIR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD MAKE SOME SORT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OFFER TO THE GOM AND IF SO THE FORM AND AMOUNT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. HEIBACH WAS NOT CERTAIN WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE FRG BUT INDICATED THAT BONN WOULD SEND OFFICIALS OF THE SAME RANK AS THE FRENCH WHO (HAUTHAL GATHERED) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INITICONFIDENTIAL

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ATIVE. THE GERMANS, ACCORDING TO HEIBACH, STILL HAVE NOT DECIDED WHAT THEY CAN OFFER TO THE GOM BUT BUDGET SUPPORT GRANTS WERE DEFINITELY OUT.

2. HAUTHAL MENTIONED THAT HEIBACH HAD REPORTED THAT THE SCHMIDT LETTER WAS STILL BEING DISCUSSED BY THE MFA, THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR.

HAUTHAL SAID HE HAD URGED HEIBACH TO GET ON WITH THE EXERCISE AS HAUTHAL FEARS THAT THE LONGER MINTOFF HAS TO WAIT FOR A RESPONSE THE MORE HE WILL EXPECT WHEN HE FINALLY GETS ONE. HAUTHAL COMMENTED THAT THE NORMAL BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS IN FORMULATING A RESPONSE TO MINTOFF'S LETTER HAD APPARENTLY BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE SPD'S INTEREST IN SUPPORTING FELLOW SOCIALIST MINTOFF. WILSON

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